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TRIPURA GAZETTE

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PART--I-- Orders and Notifications by the Government of Tripura, The High Court, Government Treasury etc.

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, AGARTALA

No. F/1(84)-TC/G/TOWING/2025 *Dated, Agartala, the* 29th *May, 2026*

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Towing of abandoned or unattended motor vehicles on a public place

It has been observed that a significant number of motor vehicles are abandoned, left unattended, or illegally parked in public places across various parts of the State.

Whereas, under Section 127(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, where any motor vehicle is abandoned or left unattended on a public place for 10 hours or more, or is parked in a place where parking is legally prohibited, its removal by a towing service or its immobilisation by any means including wheel clamping may be authorised by a police officer in uniform having jurisdiction;

And whereas, sub-section (2) of the said section empowers a police officer having jurisdiction to authorise immediate removal of any abandoned, unattended, unclaimed, wrecked, burnt or partially dismantled vehicle from a public place, if such vehicle is creating a traffic hazard because of its position in relation to the public place or if its physical appearance is causing impediment to the traffic;

And whereas, sub-section (3) of section 127 of the said act provides that the owner of the vehicle shall bear the cost of such removal or towing, in addition to any other penalties as may be applicable;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under the aforesaid provisions, the Government of Tripura hereby notifies the following charges, penalties and procedures for the towing of such vehicles throughout the state.

1. Towing Service:

The towing operation shall be carried out by the Transport Department by engaging authorized agencies/private parties through appropriate modes such as tender etc. for the purpose of towing service through tendering process as per provision coordinating with concerned district Traffic Police, AMC, District Administrations or Urban Local Bodies under the provision of Section 127 of

the Motor Vehicles Act 1988. A vehicle-category wise towing charge chart will be fixed by the Transport Department in consultation with the concerned traffic /police authority.

2. Mode of Payment:

To promote transparency and convenience, the payment of towing charges and penalties shall be made only through online and cashless methods, in line with practices followed by the Transport Department. The accepted payment modes include:

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Point-of-Sale (PoS) Machine (Debit/Credit Cards)
- Net Banking or Department-approved online payment portal

3. Designation of Vehicle holding yards:

Transport Department, Government of Tripura in consultation with the concerned district administration, home department and local bodies as the case may be shall identify and notify the designated vehicle holding yards for the safe custody of towed vehicles.

4. Recovery and Deposit of Charges:

The owner of the vehicle shall be required to pay all applicable towing charges and penalties in full prior to the release of the vehicle from the vehicle holding yard.

5. Verification of Ownership of removed vehicle:

a) Once in a month the Officer-in-Charge of the concerned Police Station shall conduct a preliminary assessment of ownership of all unclaimed, illegally parked or abandoned vehicle which has been removed and towed to the vehicle holding yard within his jurisdiction. A detailed list shall be prepared after verifying ownership and registration data through the Transport Department database (VAHAN).

b) The Officer-in-Charge shall after prepare of the verified list, shall forward the same to the concerned Superintendent of Police along with relevant details who shall in turn forward all such lists to the Transport Department.

c) A list of all removed vehicles which are not claimed within three months from the date of such removal shall be notified by the Transport Department by issuing a public notice in any of the local dailies and in the government portal.

6. Enforcement & Record-Keeping:

Authorised police officers and towing agencies must:

a) Maintain digital and physical records of each towed instance
b) Issue a system-generated receipt for all payments received
c) Ensure compliance with Section 127 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

7. The Transport Department may take appropriate steps under the applicable provisions of law for the time being in force, for dealing with vehicle which are not claimed by the respective owners within 6(six) months being towed to the vehicles holding yards.

8. This notification shall come into force from the date of issue.

By Order of the Governor

29/05/2026

(Subrata Choudhury)
Additional Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

To,

1. PPS to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, Agartala
2. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Transport Department, Govt. of Tripura
3. PS to the Hon'ble Mayor, Agartala Municipal Council, Agartala
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura
5. The Director General of Police, Tripura
6. All Secretary / Special Secretary of Government of Tripura
7. All District Magistrate & Collector, Tripura
8. All Superintendent of Police, Tripura
9. The Superintendent of Police, Traffic Wing, West Tripura
10. All District Transport Officers